

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

FEBRUARY 2003



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Reminder: Starting in with data reported in this issue, industry employment data will use a different classification system known as the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). Why is this important? The broad industry nomenclature will be similar to the older system (Standard Industrial Classification - SIC), but the sub-industries that make up these broader sectors will change. In addition, there will be new industrial categories as well. These changes will be so significant that one will not truly be able to compare data from the new system to the old. A major challenge presented, initially, will be that the NAICS system will only code the most current data and will not re-code estimates prior to 2003 to the new nomenclature for an undetermined amount of time. This will make historic analysis difficult. This new system will not affect any of the reported labor force (unemployment) data. The change to NAICS is reflected in this month's Workforce Observations publication.

Seasonal Unemployment Rates drop in January

January Local Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the La Crosse Metropolitan Area decreased 0.3 percentage points in January to 4.1 percent. The January 2003 rate was up 0.1 of a percentage point as compared to the La Crosse Metro rate for January 2002. Both the statewide and national seasonal adjusted rate for January 2003 fell by 0.3 percentage points compared to December rates. Statewide this January the rate was equal to last January's rate of 5.4 percent.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Western Wisconsin increased 1.5 percent in January, to 6.6 percent. The Western Wisconsin unadjusted rate was down by 0.2 percentage points compared to last January.

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List your job openings in JobNet at NO COST to the employer or job seeker! With over 58,000 registered JobNet users, in addition to Internet users, per month, you will have an excellent opportunity to find qualified professionals and candidates of all skill levels for job openings. Contact your local Job Center by calling 1-888-258-9966, or visiting the web site at:

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/directory/default.htm>

Direct access to JobNet:

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/jobnet/mapWI.htm>

Assistance Sought from Multi-Location Employers

Employers with operations in multiple locations (worksites) in Wisconsin who do not report the number of workers at each location are requested to complete a Multiple Worksite Report (MWR). The MWR are sent to employers during

the first quarter by the **Bureau of Workforce Information** and supplement the data that employers provide on the Unemployment Insurance Quarterly Contribution Report.

Similar to the unemployment report, the employment and wage data collected in this survey is confidential and used only for statistical and analytical studies, Unemployment

Insurance Program purposes, and the Dislocated Worker Program. Employers benefit because data can be used to assist business planners with new sites location, economic forecasting, and wage analysis.

For more information, or assistance on the MWR, contact Deborah Holt at 608.266.5321

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	LaCrosse MSA*	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: Jan 2003			
Civilian Labor Force	75,800	3,098.9	145,838
Employment	72,700	2,932.1	137,536
Unemployment	3,100	166.8	8,302
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.4%	5.7%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	1,700	71.0	688
Employment	1,800	77.6	1,097
Unemployment	-200	-6.6	(409)
Unemployment rate	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.3%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	400	63.0	2,012
Employment	300	60.7	1,745
Unemployment	100	2.3	267
Unemployment rate	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

January 2003	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA's	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	7,500	10,500	11,800	10,900	63,400	20,600	16,200	14,300	155,200	91,800	3,065,200
Employed	7,000	9,800	11,000	9,700	60,300	19,100	14,900	13,300	145,100	84,800	2,873,500
Unemployed	500	700	800	1,200	3,200	1,400	1,300	1,000	10,200	7,000	191,700
Unemployment Rate	6.4%	7.1%	6.9%	11.2%	5.0%	6.9%	8.0%	7.1%	6.6%	7.6%	6.3%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)	4,800	7,900	8,100	8,800	71,100	17,200	13,200	8,300	139,300	68,200	2,716,700
Total Private	3,900	6,700	5,100	6,600	61,300	12,800	10,900	6,100	113,500	52,200	2,314,800
Goods Producing	400	1,700	1,400	2,400	12,100	4,000	5,800	1,100	28,900	16,700	631,500
Service Producing	4,400	6,200	6,700	6,400	58,900	13,200	7,400	7,200	110,500	51,500	2,085,200
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	140	200	590	220	2,300	490	200	180	4,300	2,000	110,900
Manufacturing	300	1,500	800	2,200	9,700	3,500	5,600	900	24,400	14,700	520,600
Trade	500	2,100	900	1,100	12,900	2,500	1,500	1,700	23,200	10,200	422,600
Transportation & Utilities	1,700	200	700	400	2,200	1,300	500	300	7,200	5,100	308,100
Financial Activities	160	200	240	250	3,700	610	330	370	5,800	2,200	153,000
Education and Health Services	600	1,200	600	1,200	12,400	1,700	1,100	1,500	20,100	7,700	357,000
Leisure & Hospitality	400	800	800	900	6,800	1,500	900	600	12,600	5,800	224,800
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	200	600	400	500	11,200	1,300	900	600	15,700	4,500	932,200
Total Government	890	1,170	2,980	2,180	9,820	4,380	2,320	2,140	25,900	16,100	401,900
Federal	150	70	60	260	540	2,160	130	110	3,470	2,930	29,200
State	20	200	450	570	1,970	240	30	30	3,490	1,530	92,100
Local	720	900	2,480	1,350	7,320	1,980	2,170	2,000	18,920	11,600	280,700
Change from one month ago	December 2002										
Civilian Labor Force*	0	100	400	400	1,200	400	500	300	3,300	2,100	60,500
Employed	-100	-100	200	200	500	100	200	0	900	400	27,600
Unemployed	100	200	200	300	700	400	300	200	2,400	1,700	32,900
Unemployment rate(%)	1.5	2.2	1.4	2.1	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.0
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)	-190	-390	-100	-200	-2,300	-500	-210	-150	-4,000	-1,700	-70,000
Percent change NFWS from last mon	-3.8%	-4.7%	-1.6%	-1.9%	-3.1%	-2.9%	-1.5%	-1.8%	-2.8%	-2.5%	-2.5%
Total Private	-170	-400	-100	-200	-1,300	-400	-150	-130	-2,900	-1,600	-46,200
Goods Producing	-10	-90	-100	-100	-200	0	60	-40	-500	-300	-12,400
Service Producing	-180	-300	0	0	-2,100	-500	-270	-110	-3,500	-1,400	-57,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-20	-40	-110	-60	-400	-90	-60	-60	-800	-400	-11,100
Manufacturing	0	-50	0	-100	100	70	120	20	200	100	-1,200
Trade	-10	-300	0	-100	-300	-100	30	40	-700	-400	-15,700
Transportation & Utilities	-90	-10	-40	0	-100	-310	-90	0	-700	-500	-15,200
Financial Activities	0	0	10	0	0	10	-10	-10	0	0	-400
Education and Health Services	-30	10	10	0	-700	10	10	0	-700	0	-3,900
Leisure & Hospitality	-30	-10	0	0	-200	-20	-20	-50	-300	-100	-6,500
Svcs	0	-10	0	0	100	-20	-140	-80	-100	-300	-9,500
Total Government	-20	10	0	-20	-930	-60	-60	-20	-1,100	-200	-23,700
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	-10	0	0	0	0	-600
State	0	10	0	0	-770	-10	0	0	-800	0	-10,700
Local	-30	10	10	-20	-160	-50	-60	-20	-300	-200	-12,400
Change from one year ago	January 2002										
Civilian Labor Force*	-100	400	300	0	600	0	1,000	300	2,500	1,900	61,300
Employed	-100	400	400	100	500	0	1,000	400	2,700	2,200	58,600
Unemployed	0	0	-100	-200	100	0	0	-100	-200	-300	2,700
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.2	0.2	-0.9	-1.5	0.1	0.0	-0.5	-0.8	-0.2	-0.5	0.0
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)	-130	220	200	0	-800	-200	800	200	100	1,000	-2,600
Percent change NFWS from last year	-2.6%	2.8%	2.0%	-0.4%	-1.2%	-1.2%	6.0%	2.8%	0.1%	1.4%	-0.1%
Total Private	-100	190	100	0	400	100	700	100	1,500	1,100	4,200
Goods Producing	0	-130	0	-300	100	100	500	0	300	200	-11,900
Service Producing	-130	350	200	300	-900	-300	200	200	-100	800	9,300
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-10	0	-10	-10	-200	30	-10	-20	-200	0	-1,000
Manufacturing	10	-130	0	-300	100	90	520	30	300	200	-10,900
Trade	-30	100	0	0	0	150	80	130	400	400	-7,700
Transportation & Utilities	-70	10	0	0	0	-330	10	30	-400	-300	-9,000
Financial Activities	0	10	-10	10	100	20	30	20	100	100	1,600
Education and Health Services	-10	60	0	100	0	100	30	10	300	300	6,700
Leisure & Hospitality	10	140	100	200	100	120	170	10	800	700	3,800
Svcs	-10	10	0	0	300	-70	-150	-60	0	-300	19,000
Total Government	-30	20	40	0	-1,270	-320	80	90	-1,400	-100	-6,800
Federal	10	-10	0	10	-30	-120	0	-10	-200	-100	-600
State	0	0	40	20	-760	-20	-10	0	-700	0	-600
Local	-30	30	0	-30	-480	-180	90	90	-500	0	-5,600

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.

Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>
Direct questions and comments to: **William Brockmiller, Labor Market Analyst**